

CHARLESTON, W. VA.
GAZETTE

M - 63,294

GAZETTE-MAIL

S 106,775
JUN 4 1977

Staying Near The Trough

Adm. Stansfield Turner, the new director of the Central Intelligence Agency, wants Congress to enact a law punishing government employees who violate an oath of secrecy.

Fortunately, his boss doesn't endorse criminal action in such cases, although President Carter has said he might support additional civil sanctions.

In a speech to the National Newspaper Assn., Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., provided the definitive reason for opposing either the Turner or the Carter position: "The greatest deterrent to wrongdoing or folly in government is fear of public disclosure. We must not muzzle federal employees who in good conscience reveal violations of the law or wrong behavior.

"Unnecessary new penalties would only serve," the senator added, "to strengthen government control over the information the public gets of what goes on in government."

More of that the American taxpayer doesn't need. The federal government is awash with public relations counselors, press agents, and assorted experts in flabdoodle — all committed to making their superior look good, to boosting his budget, to expanding his authority, and to keeping him and them roped to the public trough whence all blessings originate.